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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

To whom it may concern:

As a professional computer programmer and computer user for almost 2 decades, I feel obligated to make a comment regarding the settlement the DOJ has reached with the monopolist Microsoft.

Given Microsoft's history of using its monopolist position to force its way into one market after another and leaving a trail of crushed competitors in its wake, I feel the proposed settlement agreement is a travesty of justice. Microsoft has the attitude that its behavior has benefitted customers when in fact the only entity that has benefitted is Microsoft. Furthermore, I strongly believe that Microsoft will continue to behave in a manner that will cause further violations of the anti-trust act unless the government sends it a message, in the form of a **much** stronger punishment, that this behavior will not be tolerated. As things stand, MS will continue to break the law, and they will have to be forced into court to make them comply. Of course, all this will take years, as MS will send a swarm of lawyers to delay any legal action until it's far too late to do anything about it. Microsoft is **right now** using its monopoly to work its way into new markets, yet nothing is being done about it. The longer the government waits to act, the worse things get for consumers. A stiff fine (as a percentage of Microsoft's worth..say 1%), separating the operating systems from the applications divisions of Microsoft, and forbidding Microsoft from entering any new markets for a couple years (to allow a competitive environment to develop in these new areas) are all required to put Microsoft in a position relative to other companies that will allow competition to once again thrive to the benefit of the consumer.

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